



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **NORTH DAKOTA MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORN**

*Judge also orders man to pay tens of thousands in “extraordinary restitution”*

BISMARCK, N.D.—A former resident of Dickinson, N.D., was sentenced to prison today for possessing child pornography, and is required to pay almost \$45,000 in fines and restitution, the result of an investigation conducted by: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and the Dickinson Police Department.

David W. Fisher, 44, who now resides in Corrales, N.M., was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland to five years’ imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. Fisher admitted that between the fall of 1999 and the spring of 2003 he possessed numerous computer files that contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Fisher was also ordered to pay restitution to a known victim in the amount of \$4,860, plus future related expenses. In an effort to benefit other child sex-abuse victims, he was also ordered to pay “extraordinary restitution” in the amount of \$20,000 to Bismarck’s Dakota Child Advocacy Center. In addition, Fisher was fined \$15,000 and ordered to forfeit \$5,000 to the United States of America asset forfeiture fund. Finally, Fisher was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim’s Fund.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Clare Hochhalter, who prosecuted the case, said, “The court used every tool at its disposal, in combination, to make sure this defendant and other abusers realize how serious it views these crimes.”

“We’re extremely pleased with the sentence,” said U.S. Attorney Drew Wrigley. “This marks the first time in memory that a North Dakota federal judge has included an extraordinary restitution order of this kind as part of a sentence. The United States and all of North Dakota will benefit as a result of what the court did here.”

Wrigley also praised the cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies that worked on the case.

Michael Mach, resident agent-in-charge of the ICE Grand Forks office, said, “This sentencing shows what can be accomplished when law enforcement agencies work in partnership. To those who are tempted to participate in sexually exploiting children, take note — we will find you, prosecute you and pack you off to prison.”

Fisher’s arrest and prosecution were part of Operation Predator, ICE’s comprehensive initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, international sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,200 individuals nationwide.

To enhance efforts to protect children, ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and World Vision’s child sex tourism prevention project, to provide prevention and deterrence information to the public. ICE plans to expand these partnerships in the coming year.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or [Operation.Predator@dhs.gov](mailto:Operation.Predator@dhs.gov). Additionally, NCMEC can be contacted at 1-800-843-5678 or at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com). Additional information about the operation is posted at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*